

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/763,284

Examiner

Benjamin W. Lee

Applicant(s)

SHINODA, TOMOHIRO

Art Unit

3714

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 07/12/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3-5,13,15-18 and 20-25 now renumbered as 1-15.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

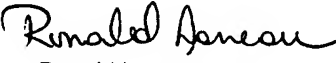
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


Ronald Laneau
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3714

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Ronald Snider on 09/21/2007.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claims 2, 14, and 19 are cancelled.

Replace claims 1, 5, 13, 17, 18, and 20-25 with the following:

1. A gaming machine for providing a game played with a trading card with a semiconductor memory which stores character data of a character and has a surface printed with a detail of the character data;

the gaming machine comprising:

a data updating device which writes changed character data into ~~a semi-conductor~~ the semiconductor memory in the trading card in response to a change in the character data according to a state of proceeding with the game; and

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a printing device which prints a detail of the changed character data onto the surface of the trading card [[.]] ; and

an erasing device which erases the detail of the character data printed previously when the printing device prints the detail of the changed character data onto the surface of the trading card.

5. A plurality of gaming machines arranged in parallel, wherein at least one of the gaming machines comprises:

a data updating device which writes changed character data into a ~~semi-conductor~~ semiconductor memory in a trading card in response to a change in the character data according to a state of proceeding with a game; and

a printing device which prints a detail of the changed character data onto the surface of the trading card [[.]] ; and

an erasing device which erases the detail of the character data printed previously when the printing device prints the detail of the changed character data onto the surface of the trading card.

13. A game system comprising:

a trading card with a semiconductor memory which stores character data of a character and has a surface printed with a detail of the character data;

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a game controlling device which proceeds with a game according to the character data stored in ~~[[a]] the trading card semi-conductor~~ with the semiconductor memory and a control signal from a controller;

a data updating device which writes changed character data in the trading card ~~semi-conductor~~ with the semiconductor memory in response to a change in the character data according to a state of proceeding with the game; and

a printing device which prints a detail of the changed character data on to the surface of the trading card ~~[[.]]~~ ; and

an erasing device which erases the detail of the character data printed previously when the printing device prints the detail of the changed character data onto the surface of the trading card.

17. A plurality of game systems arranged in parallel, wherein at least one of the game systems comprises:

a trading card ~~semi-conductor~~ with a semiconductor memory which stores character data of a character and has a surface printed with a detail of the character data;

a game controlling device which proceeds with a game according to the character data stored in the trading card ~~semi-conductor~~ with the semiconductor memory and a control signal from a controller;

a data updating device which writes changed character data in the trading card ~~semi-conductor~~ with the semiconductor memory in response to a change in the character data according to a state of proceeding with the game; and

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a printing device which prints a detail of the changed character data onto the surface of the trading card [[.]] ; and

an erasing device which erases the detail of the character data printed previously when the printing device prints the detail of the changed character data onto the surface of the trading card.

18. A gaming machine for providing a game played with a trading card with a semiconductor memory which stores character data of a character ~~into a semi-conductor memory~~ and has a surface printed with a detail of the character data;

the gaming machine comprising:

updating means for writing changed character data in the trading card ~~semi-conductor~~ with the semiconductor memory in response to a change in the character data according to a state of proceeding with the game; and

printing means for printing a detail of the changed character data on to the surface of the trading card [[.]] ; and

erasing means for erasing the detail of the character data printed previously when the printing means prints the detail of the changed character data onto the surface of the trading card.

20. A game system comprising:

a trading card with a semiconductor ~~semi-conductor~~ memory which stores character data of a character and ~~which~~ has a surface printed with a detail of the character data;

game controlling means for proceeding with a game according to the character data stored in the trading card ~~semi-conductor~~ with the semiconductor memory and a control signal from a controller;

updating means for writing changed character data in the trading card ~~semi-conductor~~ with the semiconductor memory in response to a change in the character data according to a state of proceeding with the game; and

printing means for printing a detail of the changed character data onto the surface of the trading card [[.]] ; and

erasing means for erasing the detail of the character data printed previously when the printing means prints the detail of the changed character data onto the surface of the trading card.

21. A gaming machine according to claim 1, wherein said ~~semi-conductor~~ semiconductor memory in the trading card comprises a flash memory.

22. A gaming machine according to claim 18, wherein said ~~semi-conductor~~ semiconductor memory in the trading card comprises a flash memory.

23. A gaming machine according to claim 13, wherein said ~~semi-conductor~~ semiconductor memory in the trading card comprises a flash memory.

24. A gaming machine according to claim 20, wherein said ~~semi-conductor~~ semiconductor memory in the trading card comprises a flash memory.

25. A plurality of game systems in accordance with claim 17, wherein said ~~semi-conductor~~ semiconductor memory in the trading card comprises a flash memory.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claim 1, 3-5, 13, 15-18, and 20-25 are allowed now renumbered as 1-15.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

None of the references, either singularly or in combination, disclose the totality of combined elements:

As per independent claims 1, 5, 13, 17, 18, and 20, a gaming machine/system or plurality of gaming machines/systems played with a trading card with a semiconductor memory which stores the character data of a character and a surface printed with a detail of the character data, the gaming machine comprising a data updating device which writes changed character data into a semiconductor memory in the trading card in response to a change in the character data according to a state of proceeding with the game, a printing device which prints a detail of the changed character data onto the surface of the trading card, and an erasing device which erases the detail of the character data printed previously when the printing device prints the detail of the changed character data onto the surface of the trading card.

As per dependent claims 3 and 15, wherein, when printing the detail of the changed character data onto the surface of the trading card, the printing device is utilized so as to add the detail of the changed character data to the detail of the character data printed previously.

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As per dependent claims 4 and 16, further comprising a trading card moving device having a slot which inserts and discharges the trading card, the trading card moving device moving the trading card inserted in the slot into the gaming machine.

As per dependent claims 21-25, the said semiconductor memory comprises flash memory.

The closest prior art, Nakamura (US 6,468,162 B1), discloses a gaming machine played with a trading card and a separate semiconductor memory. New trading cards are printed at the conclusion of a game session and the cards are not erased as claimed by the applicant.

3. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

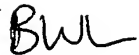
Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Benjamin W. Lee whose telephone number is 571-270-1346. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Fri (8:30 - 5:00).

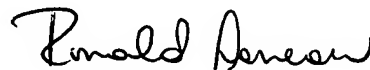
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Pezzuto can be reached on 571-272-6996. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Benjamin W. Lee
September 25, 2007



Ronald Laneau
Primary Examiner
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9/30/07